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Amended

the fastener member cooperate to insure that the fastener member is securely fastened to the connector body in its first configuration.

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓ Please cancel claims 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Please amend the remaining claims as follows:

2. (Amended) A connector for coupling an end of a coaxial cable to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor surrounded by a dielectric, the dielectric being surrounded by a conductive grounding sheath, and the conductive grounding sheath being surrounded by a protective outer jacket, said connector comprising in combination:

a. a tubular post having a first end adapted to be inserted into an exposed end of the coaxial cable around the dielectric thereof and under the conductive grounding sheath thereof, said tubular post having an opposing second end;

b. a nut having a first end for rotatably engaging the second end of said tubular post and having an opposing second end with an internally threaded bore for threadedly engaging a threaded port;

c. a cylindrical body member having a first end and a second end, the first end of said cylindrical body member including a cylindrical sleeve having an open rear end portion, said

open rear end portion having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter and an inner wall, the inner wall bounding a first central bore extending about said tubular post, the second end of said cylindrical body member engaging said tubular post proximate the second end thereof, said open rear end portion for receiving the outer jacket of the coaxial cable, said open rear end portion being deformable;

d. a compression ring having first and second opposing ends and having a central passageway extending therethrough between the first and second ends thereof, the first end of said compression ring having a first internal bore of a diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall of said open rear end portion of said cylindrical sleeve for allowing the first end of said compression ring to extend over the first end of said cylindrical body member, the central passageway of said compression ring including an inwardly tapered annular wall leading from the first internal bore and narrowing to a reduced diameter as compared with the first predetermined diameter; and

e. said inwardly tapered annular wall causing said open rear end portion of said cylindrical sleeve to be deformed inwardly toward said tubular post and against the jacket of

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the coaxial cable as said compression ring is advanced axially over the cylindrical body member toward the second end of said cylindrical body member.

4. (Original) The connector recited by claim 2 wherein said compression ring is mounted over the first end of said cylindrical body, but is not fully axially advanced, prior to installation over the end of a coaxial cable.

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6. (Original) The connector recited by claim 3 wherein said compression ring is initially securely fastened to the sleeve of said cylindrical body member and connected thereto by a releasable connection, and wherein axial advancement of said compression ring toward the second end of said cylindrical body member separates the releasable connection between said compression ring and said cylindrical body member.

8. (Original) The connector recited by claim 2 wherein said cylindrical body member includes an enlarged diameter shoulder generally between the first and second ends thereof, said enlarged diameter shoulder having a diameter larger than the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall of said cylindrical sleeve, the first end of said compression ring engaging, and being stopped by, said enlarged diameter shoulder when said compression ring has been fully axially advanced over said cylindrical sleeve.

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10. (Amended) A connector for coupling the end of a coaxial cable to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor surrounded by a dielectric, the dielectric being surrounded by a conductive grounding sheath, and the conductive grounding sheath being surrounded by a protective outer jacket, said connector comprising in combination:

a. a tubular post having a first end adapted to be inserted into an exposed end of the coaxial cable around the dielectric thereof and under the conductive grounding sheath thereof, said tubular post having an opposing second end;

b. a nut having a first end for rotatably engaging the second end of said tubular post and having an opposing second end with an internally threaded bore for threadedly engaging a threaded port;

c. a cylindrical body member having a first end and a second end, the first end of said cylindrical body member including a cylindrical sleeve having an open rear end portion, said open rear end portion having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter and an inner wall, the inner wall bounding a first central bore extending about said tubular post, the second end of said cylindrical body member engaging said tubular post proximate the second end thereof, said open rear end portion for receiving the outer jacket of the coaxial cable, said open rear end portion being

deformable;

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d. a compression ring having first and second opposing ends and having a central passageway extending therethrough between the first and second ends thereof, the first end of said compression ring having a first internal bore of a diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall of said open rear end portion of said cylindrical sleeve for allowing the first end of said compression ring to extend over the first end of said cylindrical body member, the central passageway of said compression ring including an inwardly tapered annular wall leading from the first internal bore and narrowing to a reduced diameter as compared with the first predetermined diameter;

e. said inwardly tapered annular wall causing said open rear end portion of said cylindrical sleeve to be deformed inwardly toward said tubular post and against the jacket of the coaxial cable as said compression ring is advanced axially over the cylindrical body member toward the second end of said cylindrical body member; and

f. wherein said cylindrical sleeve of said cylindrical body member has a circular relief formed therein to facilitate bending of said cylindrical sleeve as said compression ring

is axially advanced thereover.

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Cont. 11. (Amended) A connector for coupling the end of a coaxial cable to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor surrounded by a dielectric, the dielectric being surrounded by a conductive grounding sheath, and the conductive grounding sheath being surrounded by a protective outer jacket, said connector comprising in combination:

a. a tubular post having a first end adapted to be inserted into an exposed end of the coaxial cable around the dielectric thereof and under the conductive grounding sheath thereof, said tubular post having an opposing second end;

b. a nut having a first end for rotatably engaging the second end of said tubular post and having an opposing second end with an internally threaded bore for threadedly engaging a threaded port;

c. a cylindrical body member having a first end and a second end, the first end of said cylindrical body member including a cylindrical sleeve having an open rear end portion, said open rear end portion having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter and an inner wall, the inner wall bounding a first central bore extending about said tubular post, the second end of said cylindrical body member engaging said tubular post proximate the second end thereof,

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said open rear end portion for receiving the outer jacket of the coaxial cable, said open rear end portion being deformable;

d. a compression ring having first and second opposing ends and having a central passageway extending therethrough between the first and second ends thereof, the first end of said compression ring having a first internal bore of a diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall of said open rear end portion of said cylindrical sleeve for allowing the first end of said compression ring to extend over the first end of said cylindrical body member, the central passageway of said compression ring including an inwardly tapered annular wall leading from the first internal bore and narrowing to a reduced diameter as compared with the first predetermined diameter;

e. said inwardly tapered annular wall causing said open rear end portion of said cylindrical sleeve to be deformed inwardly toward said tubular post and against the jacket of the coaxial cable as said compression ring is advanced axially over the cylindrical body member toward the second end of said cylindrical body member; and

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f. wherein said cylindrical sleeve of said cylindrical body member has a tapered section formed therein to facilitate bending of said cylindrical sleeve as said compression ring is axially advanced thereover.

12. (Original) A connector for coupling the end of a coaxial cable to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor surrounded by an insulator core, the insulator core being surrounded by an outer braid conductor, and the outer braid conductor being surrounded by a protective sheathing jacket, said connector comprising in combination:

a. a tubular post member having a first opening adapted to be inserted onto an exposed end of the coaxial cable around the insulator core thereof and under the outer braid conductor thereof, said tubular post member having an opposed second opening;

b. a nut member having a first end for rotatably engaging the second opening of said tubular post member and having an opposing second end with an internally threaded bore for threadedly engaging a threaded port;

c. a connector body having a first end and a second end, the first end of said connector body including a cylindrical sleeve having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter and an

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inner wall, the inner wall bounding a first outer cavity extending about said post member, the second end of said connector body engaging said post member proximate the second opening thereof, said cylindrical sleeve having an open end for receiving the sheathing jacket of the coaxial cable, said open end being deformable;

NE { d. a fastener member having first and second opposing openings and having a second cavity extending therethrough between the first and second opposing openings thereof, the first opening of said fastener member having a first inner bore of a diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall of said connector body for allowing the first opening of said fastener member to extend over the first end of said connector body, the second cavity of said fastener member including a ramped surface leading from the first inner bore and narrowing to a reduced diameter as compared with the first predetermined diameter;

e. said ramped surface causing said open end of said cylindrical sleeve to be deformed inwardly toward said tubular post member and against the jacket of the coaxial cable as said fastener member is advanced axially over the connector body toward the second end of said connector body; and f. wherein said cylindrical sleeve of said connector body has a corrugated surface portion formed therein to facilitate radial movement of

NE 2 said cylindrical sleeve as said fastener member is axially advanced thereover.

26 DB 13. (Amended) A connector for coupling the end of a coaxial cable to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor surrounded by a dielectric, the dielectric being surrounded by a conductive grounding sheath, and the conductive grounding sheath being surrounded by a protective outer jacket, said connector comprising in combination:

a. a tubular post having a first end adapted to be inserted into an exposed end of the coaxial cable around the dielectric thereof and under the conductive grounding sheath thereof, said tubular post having an opposing second end;

b. a nut having a first end for rotatably engaging the second end of said tubular post and having an opposing second end with an internally threaded bore for threadedly engaging a threaded port;

c. a cylindrical body member having a first end and a second end, the first end of said cylindrical body member including a cylindrical sleeve having an open rear end portion, said open rear end portion having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter and an inner wall, the inner wall bounding a first central bore extending about said tubular post, the second end of said cylindrical body member

engaging said tubular post proximate the second end thereof,
said open rear end portion for receiving the outer jacket of
the coaxial cable, said open rear end portion being
deformable;

d. a compression ring having first and second opposing ends
and having a central passageway extending therethrough
between the first and second ends thereof, the first end of
said compression ring having a first internal bore of a
diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter
of the outer wall of said open rear end portion of said
cylindrical sleeve for allowing the first end of said
compression ring to extend over the first end of said
cylindrical body member, the central passageway of said
compression ring including an inwardly tapered annular wall
leading from the first internal bore and narrowing to a
reduced diameter as compared with the first predetermined
diameter;

e. said inwardly tapered annular wall causing said open rear
end portion of said cylindrical sleeve to be deformed
inwardly toward said tubular post and against the jacket of
the coaxial cable as said compression ring is advanced
axially over the cylindrical body member toward the second
end of said cylindrical body member; and

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f. wherein a series of grooves are formed in the outer wall of said cylindrical sleeve to reduce drag as the compression ring is axially advanced over said cylindrical sleeve.

14. (Original) A connector for coupling the end of a coaxial cable to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor surrounded by an insulator core, the insulator core being surrounded by an outer braid conductor, and the outer braid conductor being surrounded by a protective sheathing jacket, said connector comprising in combination:

a. a tubular post member having a first opening adapted to be inserted onto an exposed end of the coaxial cable around the insulator core thereof and under the outer braid conductor thereof, said tubular post member having an opposed second opening;

b. a nut member having a first end for rotatably engaging the second opening of said tubular post member and having an opposing second end with an internally threaded bore for threadedly engaging a threaded port;

c. a connector body having a first end and a second end, the first end of said connector body including a cylindrical sleeve having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter and an inner wall, the inner wall bounding a first outer cavity

extending about said post member, the second end of said connector body engaging said post member proximate the second opening thereof, said cylindrical sleeve having an open end for receiving the sheathing jacket of the coaxial cable, said open end being deformable;

NE { d. a fastener member having first and second opposing openings and having a second cavity extending therethrough between the first and second opposing openings thereof, the first opening of said fastener member having a first inner bore of a diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall of said connector body for allowing the first opening of said fastener member to extend over the first end of said connector body, the second cavity of said fastener member including a ramped surface leading from the first inner bore and narrowing to a reduced diameter as compared with the first predetermined diameter;

e. said ramped surface causing said open end of said cylindrical sleeve to be deformed inwardly toward said tubular post member and against the jacket of the coaxial cable as said fastener member is advanced axially over the connector body toward the second end of said connector body; and f. wherein a corrugated surface portion is formed in the outer wall of said connector body to reduce driving force as the fastener member is axially advanced along said connector body.

C 15. (New) A connector for coupling an end of a coaxial cable to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor surrounded by a dielectric, the dielectric being surrounded by a conductive grounding sheath, and the conductive grounding sheath being surrounded by a protective outer jacket, said connector comprising in combination:

a. a tubular post having a first end adapted to be inserted into an exposed end of the coaxial cable around the dielectric thereof and under the conductive grounding sheath thereof, said tubular post having an opposing second end;

b. a nut having a first end for rotatably engaging the second end of said tubular post and having an opposing second end with an internally threaded bore for threadedly engaging a threaded port;

c. a cylindrical body member having a first end and a second end, the first end of said cylindrical body member including a cylindrical sleeve having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter and an inner wall, the inner wall bounding a first central bore extending about said tubular post, the second end of said cylindrical body member engaging said tubular post proximate the second end thereof, said cylindrical sleeve having an open rear end portion for receiving the outer jacket of the coaxial cable, said open rear end portion being deformable, wherein the axial length

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of the cylindrical sleeve is less than the axial length of the first end of said tubular post;

d. a compression ring having first and second opposing ends and having a central passageway extending therethrough between the first and second ends thereof, the first end of said compression ring having a first internal bore of a diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall of said cylindrical sleeve for allowing the first end of said compression ring to extend over the first end of said cylindrical body member, the central passageway of said compression ring including an inwardly tapered annular wall leading from the first internal bore and narrowing to a reduced diameter as compared with the first predetermined diameter; and

e. said inwardly tapered annular wall causing said rear end portion of said cylindrical sleeve to be deformed inwardly toward said tubular post and against the jacket of the coaxial cable as said compression ring is advanced axially over the cylindrical body member toward the second end of said cylindrical body member.

16. (New) A connector for coupling an end of a coaxial cable to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor surrounded by a dielectric, the dielectric being surrounded by a

conductive grounding sheath, and the conductive grounding sheath being surrounded by a protective outer jacket, said connector comprising in combination:

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a. a tubular post having a first end adapted to be inserted into an exposed end of the coaxial cable around the dielectric thereof and under the conductive grounding sheath thereof, said tubular post having an opposing second end;

b. a nut having a first end for rotatably engaging the second end of said tubular post and having an opposing second end with an internally threaded bore for threadedly engaging a threaded port;

c. a cylindrical body member having a first end and a second end, the first end of said cylindrical body member including a cylindrical sleeve having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter and an inner wall, the inner wall bounding a first central bore extending about said tubular post, the second end of said cylindrical body member engaging said tubular post proximate the second end thereof, said cylindrical sleeve having an open rear end portion for receiving the outer jacket of the coaxial cable, said open rear end portion being deformable;

d. a compression ring having first and second opposing ends and having a central passageway extending therethrough

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between the first and second ends thereof, the first end of said compression ring having a first internal bore of a diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall of said cylindrical sleeve for allowing the first end of said compression ring to extend over the first end of said cylindrical body member, the central passageway of said compression ring including an inwardly tapered annular wall leading from the first internal bore and narrowing to a reduced diameter as compared with the first predetermined diameter, wherein the first internal bore is without helical threads; and

e. said inwardly tapered annular wall causing said rear end portion of said cylindrical sleeve to be deformed inwardly toward said tubular post and against the jacket of the coaxial cable as said compression ring is advanced axially over the cylindrical body member toward the second end of said cylindrical body member.

17. (New) A connector for coupling an end of a coaxial cable to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor surrounded by a dielectric, the dielectric being surrounded by a conductive grounding sheath, and the conductive grounding sheath being surrounded by a protective outer jacket, said connector comprising in combination:

a. a tubular post having a first end adapted to be inserted

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into an exposed end of the coaxial cable around the dielectric thereof and under the conductive grounding sheath thereof, said tubular post having an opposing second end;

b. a nut having a first end for rotatably engaging the second end of said tubular post and having an opposing second end with an internally threaded bore for threadedly engaging a threaded port;

c. a cylindrical body member having a first end and a second end, the first end of said cylindrical body member including a cylindrical sleeve having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter and an inner wall, the inner wall bounding a first central bore extending about said tubular post, the second end of said cylindrical body member engaging said tubular post proximate the second end thereof, said cylindrical sleeve having an open rear end portion for receiving the outer jacket of the coaxial cable, said open rear end portion being deformable;

d. a compression ring having first and second opposing ends and having a central passageway extending therethrough between the first and second ends thereof, the first end of said compression ring having a first internal bore of a diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall of said cylindrical sleeve for allowing

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the first end of said compression ring to extend over the first end of said cylindrical body member, the central passageway of said compression ring including an inwardly tapered annular wall leading from the first internal bore and narrowing to a reduced diameter as compared with the first predetermined diameter, wherein the first internal bore is a substantially smooth bore; and

e. said inwardly tapered annular wall causing said rear end portion of said cylindrical sleeve to be deformed inwardly toward said tubular post and against the jacket of the coaxial cable as said compression ring is advanced axially over the cylindrical body member toward the second end of said cylindrical body member.

18. (New) A connector for coupling an end of a coaxial cable to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor surrounded by a dielectric, the dielectric being surrounded by a conductive grounding sheath, and the conductive grounding sheath being surrounded by a protective outer jacket, said connector comprising in combination:

a. a tubular post having a first end adapted to be inserted into an exposed end of the coaxial cable around the dielectric thereof and under the conductive grounding sheath thereof, said tubular post having an opposing second end;

b. a nut having a first end for rotatably engaging the second end of said tubular post and having an opposing second end with an internally threaded bore for threadedly engaging a threaded port;

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c. a cylindrical body member having a first end and a second end, the first end of said cylindrical body member including a cylindrical sleeve having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter and an inner wall, the inner wall bounding a first central bore extending about said tubular post, the second end of said cylindrical body member engaging said tubular post proximate the second end thereof, said cylindrical sleeve having an open rear end portion for receiving the outer jacket of the coaxial cable, said open rear end portion being deformable;

d. a compression ring having first and second opposing ends and having a central passageway extending therethrough between the first and second ends thereof, the first end of said compression ring having a first internal bore of a diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall of said cylindrical sleeve for allowing the first end of said compression ring to extend over the first end of said cylindrical body member, the central passageway of said compression ring including an inwardly tapered annular wall leading from the first internal bore

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and narrowing to a reduced diameter as compared with the first predetermined diameter, wherein the axial length of the central passageway of the compression ring is approximately equal to or less than the axial length of the first end of said tubular post; and

e. said inwardly tapered annular wall causing said rear end portion of said cylindrical sleeve to be deformed inwardly toward said tubular post and against the jacket of the coaxial cable as said compression ring is advanced axially over the cylindrical body member toward the second end of said cylindrical body member.

19. (New) A connector for coupling an end of a coaxial cable to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor surrounded by a dielectric, the dielectric being surrounded by a conductive grounding sheath, and the conductive grounding sheath being surrounded by a protective outer jacket, said connector comprising in combination:

a. a tubular post having a first end adapted to be inserted into an exposed end of the coaxial cable around the dielectric thereof and under the conductive grounding sheath thereof, said tubular post having an opposing second end;

b. a nut having a first end for rotatably engaging the second end of said tubular post and having an opposing

second end with an internally threaded bore for threadedly engaging a threaded port;

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c. a cylindrical body member having a first end and a second end, the first end of said cylindrical body member including a cylindrical sleeve having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter and an inner wall, the inner wall bounding a first central bore extending about said tubular post, the second end of said cylindrical body member engaging said tubular post proximate the second end thereof, said cylindrical sleeve having an open rear end portion for receiving the outer jacket of the coaxial cable, said open rear end portion being deformable;

d. a compression ring having first and second opposing ends and having a central passageway extending therethrough between the first and second ends thereof, the first end of said compression ring having a first internal bore of a diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall of said cylindrical sleeve for allowing the first end of said compression ring to extend over the first end of said cylindrical body member, the central passageway of said compression ring including an inwardly tapered annular wall leading from the first internal bore and narrowing to a reduced diameter as compared with the first predetermined diameter, wherein the axial length of

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the first internal bore is less than the axial length of the first end of said tubular post; and

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e. said inwardly tapered annular wall causing said rear end portion of said cylindrical sleeve to be deformed inwardly toward said tubular post and against the jacket of the coaxial cable as said compression ring is advanced axially over the cylindrical body member toward the second end of said cylindrical body member.

20. (New) A connector for coupling an end of a coaxial cable to a threaded port, the coaxial cable having a center conductor surrounded by a dielectric, the dielectric being surrounded by a conductive grounding sheath, and the conductive grounding sheath being surrounded by a protective outer jacket, said connector comprising in combination:

a. a tubular post having a first end adapted to be inserted into an exposed end of the coaxial cable around the dielectric thereof and under the conductive grounding sheath thereof, said tubular post having an opposing second end;

b. a nut having a first end for rotatably engaging the second end of said tubular post and having an opposing second end with an internally threaded bore for threadedly engaging a threaded port;

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c. a cylindrical body member having a first end and a second end, the first end of said cylindrical body member including a cylindrical sleeve having an outer wall of a first predetermined diameter and an inner wall, the inner wall bounding a first central bore extending about said tubular post, the second end of said cylindrical body member engaging said tubular post proximate the second end thereof, said cylindrical sleeve having an open rear end portion for receiving the outer jacket of the coaxial cable, said open rear end portion being deformable;

d. a compression ring having first and second opposing ends and having a central passageway extending therethrough between the first and second ends thereof, the first end of said compression ring having a first internal bore of a diameter commensurate with the first predetermined diameter of the outer wall of said cylindrical sleeve for allowing the first end of said compression ring to extend over the first end of said cylindrical body member, the central passageway of said compression ring including an inwardly tapered annular wall leading from the first internal bore and narrowing to a reduced diameter as compared with the first predetermined diameter, wherein the axial length of the first internal bore is less than the axial length of the deformable rear end portion of the cylindrical sleeve; and